

PASSPORT TO ARGENTINA

American Citizen Services Newsletter

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Issue 8



U.S. Embassy
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Consul General's Corner

Greetings from the Consular Section! We hope you all are just as excited as we are for the warmer weather. I imagine many of you are already planning some exciting excursions throughout this vast, beautiful country. However, if you decide to travel outside of Argentina, please keep in mind that some countries might require visas for U.S. citizens (i.e., Brazil and Bolivia). You can find travel information at www.travel.state.gov.

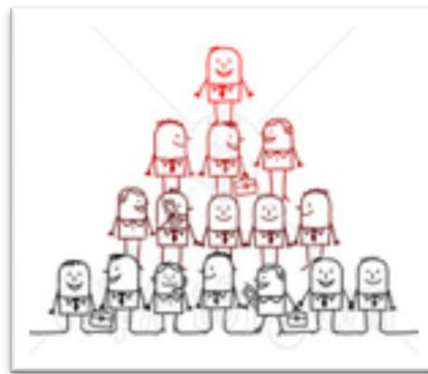
This October we welcomed our newest arrival in the Consular Section, Shannon Farrell, who is the current Chief of American Citizen Services. Shannon joined the Foreign Service in May 2003 where she first served as a consular officer at the US Embassy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia until 2005. She then moved to Ankara, Turkey where she served in the consular and economic sections, as well as staff Assistant to Ambassador Ross Wilson. During that assignment, Shannon was the acting Deputy of the Consular Section during the July 2006 war in Lebanon, during which time the US Mission in Turkey evacuated over 1,700 US citizens through the port city of Adana in southeastern Turkey. In 2007, Shannon worked in Washington D.C. as the staff assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs before heading to Afghanistan to serve as the US representative to the Spanish-led Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in the western province of Badghis working on security, governance, and development issues and actively supporting rule of law throughout the province. There she worked closely with Spanish, Italian, and US military serving in western Afghanistan, as well as United Nations and US Agency for International Development representatives assigned to Badghis province. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, Shannon worked as an employment litigator and immigration law specialist for eight years at three different private law firms in Wisconsin. Upon graduation from the University of Wisconsin Law School in May 1995, she worked as a special interest prosecutor at the Dane County District Attorney's office in Madison, Wisconsin. She received a Bachelor's Degree from Tulane University in Latin American Studies and Spanish in 1992 and she speaks Spanish and Turkish. Shannon is originally from Thiensville, Wisconsin and is an avid golfer and enjoys running and yoga.

I would now like to share some information about our outstanding warden community. With more and more American citizens choosing to reside overseas, it has become critical for Consular Sections to have the ability to



Consul General's Corner

contact these Americans in the event of an emergency, possible security threat, or natural disaster. The “Warden System” that we use abroad is a pyramidal contact system, in which the Consular Section contacts a few people, who each contact a few more, and so on, until our entire population is alerted. Wardens have the supportive role of being our first points of contact in outlying regions. Their primary responsibilities range from distributing Embassy non-emergency messages, such as information on absentee voting or income tax issues, to forwarding real-time emergency messages to the American community in their areas. In a few rare instances, we may ask a warden to immediately help an American in need of assistance, until we can get consular staff to their location. Without these volunteers, the relationship between the Consular Section and the American citizen community could not function effectively or efficiently.



Communication Pyramid

Recently we had the opportunity to meet and speak with some of our longstanding wardens about their lives and their involvement with the Embassy. Roger Aberth moved to Argentina in 2007 and has been fulfilling his duties as a warden in Iguazu Falls, where he works for Starwood hotels and resorts.

Evelyn Saint, a native of Cordoba, Argentina, was born to American missionary parents. She grew up bilingual, allowing her to enjoy the benefits of both cultures. While attending school at Academia Arguello, she studied journalism, family counseling, and has since that time worked as an interpreter and translator. She expressed her delight in being able to assist the American community in Cordoba, where she is raising her three children with her Argentine-Peruvian husband.

Pamela Kirk Peralta came to Argentina in 1978 from Oregon amidst a time of much political unrest. At that time, no warden program existed. When asked to be a part of the warden program, Pamela was thrilled not only to help Americans, but also to renew her ties with the American citizens new to Rosario by talking with them about topics ranging from medical care, schools, and money exchange, to general expectations with regard to life in Argentina. Today she resides in Rosario with her husband and two daughters.



Embassy News

Natalie Goodall moved to Argentina in 1963 at the age of twenty-eight. Originally from Ohio, she first left home to teach American children in Mobil Oil de Venezuela's elementary schools in Barinas and Puerto Cabello, Venezuela. After four years, she travelled south to Bariloche with one of her housemates, where she read about Tierra del Fuego in Lucas Bridges' famous book *The Uttermost Part of the Earth*. Although advised in Buenos Aires not to go to Tierra del Fuego, she decided to pursue the adventure anyway, and arrived in Ushuaia in December, 1962. After some difficulties, she visited Estancia Harberton, where she met her future husband, Thomas D. Goodall, whose great-grandfather, a missionary pioneer named Thomas Bridges, established the estancia in 1886. Natalie and her husband raised their two daughters there and now have six grandchildren, all of whom still live in Tierra del Fuego.

Having received her BS and MA in botany and art, Natalie began collecting plants. Soon in contact with expert botanists, she formed a herbarium of over 8,000 plants; her plant illustrations are in several books, mainly the *Flora of Tierra del Fuego* by D.M. Moore (1983). Later, after working with the US National Science Foundation, she began to study the basic biology of dolphins stranded on the coasts. Today her collection of over 5,000 bird and mammal skeletons is held the Museo de Acatushún de Aves y Mamíferos Marinos Australes. The museum, located at Estancia Harberton, is an Argentine National Historical Monument.



Ushuaia

For the last 20 years, Natalie has served as an Embassy warden, offering tourists who visit Ushuaia, the estancia, and museum help and assistance as needed. In the past, Natalie gave lectures at the Embassy Wives' Club, schools, and on tourist ships. At the estancia and museum, she trains a number of tourism, biology, and vet students who intern there each summer.

Wardens provide an invaluable and crucial service to their fellow Americans, and their time and selfless efforts are highly appreciated by the entire American citizen community. If you or anyone you know would consider volunteering to serve the US citizen community as a warden, please contact us.

From all of us in the Consular Section, we wish you all a wonderful summer season and remember that we are here to help and assist you in any way we can.

Jennifer Noronha
Consul General
U.S. Embassy Buenos Aires

Embassy News

AMBASSADOR MARTINEZ MEETS WITH PRESIDENT CRISTINA FERNANDEZ DE KIRCHNER

During a meeting with Argentine President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner on November 13 to discuss US-Argentina bilateral cooperation, Ambassador Martinez emphasized Argentina's leadership role in initiatives to combat nuclear proliferation and climate change, two global threats at the top of President Obama's international agenda.



"It was a pleasure and an honor to have the opportunity to meet with President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner. We have discussed the excellent cooperation between our countries and how we can continue to strengthen our relationship," commented Ambassador Martinez after the meeting.

The two also discussed ways to increase bilateral commerce and investment. The Ambassador reiterated U.S. support for Argentina's efforts to normalize its relationship with the IMF and creditors from the Paris Club.

PRESENTATION BY PHOTOGRAPHER HENRY HORENSTEIN AT THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

The Embassy and the NGO Tierra de Exploradores presented "Animalia," an exhibit by US photographer Henry Horenstein, for a group of about 60 people attending independent and professional photography workshops. Mr. Horenstein discussed the



beginnings of his career, his thematic preferences, and the series "Animalia" with the assembled group. This exhibit, opened since November 5 and part of "Tribute: Cycle of art and thoughts that honor nature," is on display at one of the city's most publicly recognized venues, Plaza San Martin, as well as at the Hotel Panamericano.

Following his presentation, Mr. Horenstein fielded questions from young adults from the Center of Communication and Audiovisual Production of Moreno on topics ranging from photographic techniques to Mr. Horenstein's opinion of using Photoshop.

Embassy News

2009 VETERANS' DAY MEMORIAL

On November 10, Deputy Chief of Mission Thomas Kelly presided over the wreath-laying ceremony on Embassy grounds in observance of Veterans' Day. Veterans' Day marks the signing of the Armistice on November 11, 1918 that ended World War I. Mr. Kelly placed a wreath at the base of the U.S. flagpole in recognition of the more than 25 million U.S. veterans.



AMBASSADOR MARTINEZ VISITS SECRETARY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS VICTORIO TACCETTI

During a meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Relations on November 11, Ambassador Martinez and Vice Minister Victoria Taccetti discussed continued cooperation between the government of Argentina and the United States and exchanged views regarding current global challenges. Both agreed that the United States and Argentina will continue to partner and work collaboratively against global threats to peace and security.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING TO PRISON GUARDS



On September 21, 2009 at the Federal Prison at Ezeiza, American Citizen Services officer Jonathan Nellis and local supervisor Gaston Marano participated in a formal signing ceremony for an agreement between the U.S. Embassy, the Federal Penitentiary Service, and the Language Center Association (SEA). Mr. Nellis signed the accord that will help provide English language training to prison guards working with non-Spanish speaking inmates.



Your Personal Safety

In the event of a criminal incident at your residence, here are some key points to remember:

- Above all, force yourself to remain calm. You cannot think clearly if you are not calm.
- If able to do so, activate your panic alarm, but do not do so if it puts you in more danger.
- Convince the intruders that the maid, a friend, a repairman, or somebody is about to show up to encourage them to depart quickly.
- Cooperate, unless doing so puts you in greater danger. There is no point in turning a property crime into a personal assault, or worse.
- Concentrate on remembering details of the intruder's appearance, the clothes and shoes they are wearing, defining characteristics such as facial hair, scars, tattoos, or piercings, and what they say and do during the incident. These details can greatly assist the police in their investigation.

→ Key points to remember for crime prevention:



- Make your home a hard target. Keep your gates, grills, and doors closed. Close your drapes or blinds at night so passersby cannot see into your home.
- Use your alarm system, even when at home. Make sure your family and domestic help know how to use the system, and how to initiate the panic alarm.
- Be alert for possible criminal/terrorist surveillance near your residence and places you visit on a regular basis. Look for parked occupied vehicles or strange pedestrians.
- Be especially alert for suspicious vehicles or persons when approaching or leaving your residence. Home invasion robbers frequently accost their victims on arrival/departure.
- Vary your daily routine and lifestyle as much as possible. Vary your times of departure from home and work and vice versa.
- Vary your routes to work and home, and other places you visit on a regular basis

Meet Our New Ambassador



Vilma Martínez

On September 18, 2009, Ambassador Martínez assumed office as the first woman to represent the United States as an Ambassador in Buenos Aires. Coming from Los Angeles, California where she worked as a partner with the law firm of Munger, Tolles & Olson since 1982, specializing in federal and state court commercial litigation, in recent years, her legal practice focused on advising companies on steps to enhance their equal employment opportunity policies and to build and incorporate diversity initiatives into their business plans.

Prior to Munger, Tolles & Olson, Ambassador Martinez served as President and General Counsel of the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) for nine years. One of Ambassador Martinez's most significant accomplishments as head of MALDEF was the development of a framework which enabled it to grow and support a broader array of activities. Ambassador Martinez's previous professional endeavors include work as a litigation associate at Cahill, Gordon & Reindel in New York, and as a staff attorney with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

Complementing Ambassador Martinez's prior employment experience is an extensive history of continued public service on numerous non-profit boards. She served as Chairman of The Board of Regents of The University of California from 1984-1986, and was a Regent from 1976-1990. She previously served as a board member of the Los Angeles Philharmonic Association and as a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Ambassador Martinez chaired the Pacific Council's Study Group on Mexico and served on the advisory boards of Columbia Law School and the Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California. She was appointed to President Clinton's Advisory Committee on Trade Policy and Negotiations from 1994-1996.

Ambassador Martinez has been a popular speaker at educational institutions around the United States, including Harvard Law School, Yale University, the University of Notre Dame, Stanford, and her alma mater, the University of Texas.

Increase in Study Abroad Students

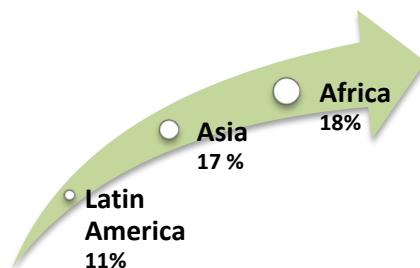
A record number of U.S. students are studying abroad, reflecting the value of an international academic experience as preparation to live and work in a global society. According to the *Open Doors 2009* survey, the number of Americans studying abroad increased by 8.5 percent to 262,416 for the 2007/08 academic year. This increase builds on two decades of steady growth and represents four times as many U.S. students than in 1987/88. The Institute of International Education publishes the annual *Open Doors* report with support from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

"Today more than ever before, study abroad can help our students understand our interconnected world and participate productively in the global economy," said Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Judith A. McHale, at a briefing today at the National Press Club in Washington, DC that launched the observance of International Education Week. She added, "The State Department strongly supports study abroad through such programs as the Fulbright Program, which is sending its largest number ever of U.S. students abroad this year, and the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program, which in two years has doubled the number of U.S. undergraduates with financial need who will study abroad."



Open Doors 2009 shows that the number of students to nearly all of the top twenty-five destinations increased, notably to destinations less traditional for study abroad: China, Ireland, Austria and India (up about 20 percent each), as well as Costa Rica, Japan, Argentina and South Africa (up nearly 15 percent

each). While the four perennial leaders in hosting U.S. students remain the United Kingdom, Italy, Spain and France, findings indicate that 15 of the top 25 destinations are now outside of Western Europe, and 19 are countries where English is not the primary language. The number of Americans electing to study abroad increased by 18 percent in Africa, 17 percent in Asia, and 11 percent in Latin America.



Helpful Reminders

Passport Renewals

*Is your passport
still valid?*

The holiday season is fast-approaching and with that comes the joy of vacation planning! If you are planning to travel anytime during the upcoming summer months, it is important to make sure your passport is and will be valid. However, if you need to renew your passport, there are just a few easy steps to do so by mail:



- Complete a DS-82 form, which can be found at www.travel.state.gov under “Applications and Forms”
- Include your most recent passport and two recent, color photographs
- Also required is a payment of \$75 USD with an international credit card



Mail the above requirements to:

**Embajada de los Estados Unidos
Sección Consular - Ciudadanía
Cerviño 4320
1425 Buenos Aires**



Please remember that this process can take up to 10 days, so if you are planning to travel, it is important that you allow enough time prior to your departure date. For more specific information on passport renewal requirements, please visit our website at <http://argentina.usembassy.gov/passports.html>.

Consular Report Birth Abroad

Additionally, we would like to remind our community about the necessary steps to report the birth abroad of a U.S. citizen and obtaining a child's first U.S. passport. Unlike passport renewals, you must make an appointment to come to the Embassy, which can be done online at our website. For information regarding the required forms and documents that you will need to bring with you to your appointment, please visit http://argentina.usembassy.gov/reporting_a_birth.html



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Traveling with Drugs/Medicine

A traveler requiring medicines containing habit-forming drugs (e.g. cough medicine, diuretics, heart drugs, tranquilizers, sleeping pills, antidepressants, stimulants, etc) should do the following prior to traveling to Argentina:

- Have all drugs, medicines, and similar products properly identified
- Carry only such quantity as would normally be used by an individual during his/her visit
- Have either a prescription or written statement from your personal physician that the medicine is being used under a doctor's direction and that it is necessary for your physical well-being while traveling
- Declare such drugs or medications to the Customs officer

CUSTOMS



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The Embassy now has its very own Facebook page, and it can be accessed through the facebook link on the Embassy website:

www.argentina.usembassy.gov

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****NOTE: Narcotics and dangerous drugs are prohibited when entering and leaving Argentina. There are severe civil and/or criminal penalties if imported.***

ACS on the Road

ROSARIO



On September 25, 2009, Vice Consul Jonathan Nellis and Consular Assistant Alejandra Pawlyszyn traveled to Rosario to meet with representatives of ARICANA. Aricana, a binational center located in the city of Rosario, is just three hours north of Buenos Aires in the Province of Santa Fe. Representatives of the Informational and Cultural Section were also in attendance.

For a greater part of the event, the ACS team provided consular services to 16 individuals residing in Rosario, including assistance with passport renewals and report of birth registrations. Vice Consul Nellis also addressed students, as well as representatives from 15 travel agencies, regarding new requirements for obtaining different kinds of visas for temporary travel to the United States.

The ACS team has been traveling to various regions and providing consular assistance since 2006 and will continue its program of service. Stay tuned for the next excursion of ACS on the road, when ACS Chief Shannon Farrell and Special Consular Services Assistant Susana Glucksmann travel to Mendoza to provide services to Americans living outside of Buenos Aires.

ACS Hours and Upcoming Embassy Holidays

Our Hours

The American Citizen Services Office is open to the public from Monday to Friday from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm and 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm. Appointments are required for non-emergency passport, report of birth and notary services. Passports, reports of birth, and notary service appointments are now scheduled online at <http://argentina.usembassy.gov>

Holidays

The Embassy will be closed the following days:

- *Christmas Day- December 25, 2009 (Friday)*
- *New Years' Day- January 1, 2010 (Friday)*
- *Martin Luther King's Birthday- January 18, 2010 (Monday)*
- *Washington's Birthday- February 15, 2010 (Monday)*



Happy Holidays!